

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

DEC 07 2005

Attorney Docket No.: LAUFNZ00100

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on the date shown below.

Date: December 7, 2005

Signature: 

(Laura Shires)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/798,018  
Confirmation No.: 8804  
Filing Date: March 11, 2004  
Inventor(s): Michael D. LAUFER et al.  
Title: SURGICAL FASTENING SYSTEM  
Examiner: G. Dawson  
Group Art Unit: 3731

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patent  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated August 23, 2005 for which a response was due on November 23, 2005. Applicant submits a request for one-month extension of time herewith. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the Remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendment to the Drawings** begin on page 8 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 9 of this paper.